

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) Arrangement in a counter rotating propulsion system comprising an aft propeller installed on a thruster rotatable about a vertical axis, and a forward propeller installed on a shaft or on a thruster, whereby the aft propeller and the forward propeller have opposite directions of rotation and the aft and forward propellers are arranged opposing each other, each of the propellers having a hub with a cap, the hub and cap associated with the forward and aft propellers are arranged opposing each other, the cap on the forward propeller having a length wherein at least two equally distributed flow plates are arranged on the cap of the forward propeller and that the flow plates are radially projecting from the cap, the flow plates on the whole length of the forward cap and link up to each other and extend beyond an aft facing end of the cap.
2. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the forward cap is well-streamlined.
3. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the forward cap has a diameter to length ratio not higher than 2.

4. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the flow plates are straight and similar to each other.

5. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the number of the flow plates is independent of the number of the blades of the forward propeller and the position of the flow plates is independent of the position of the blades of the forward propeller.

6. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the diameter of the flow plates is in the range of 0.4-2 times the maximum hub diameter.

7. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the flow plates are integrated to the cap.

8. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the flow plates are fixed to the cap by welding or by bolts.

9. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the aft propeller is turnable and the aft propeller is used to propel and to steer a vessel.

10. (Previously Presented) Arrangement according to claim 1, wherein the aft propeller has a streamlined cap.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Currently Amended) An arrangement comprising:

a thruster rotatable about a vertical axis comprising an aft propeller, a first hub and a first cap; and

a forward propeller, and a second hub and a second cap associated with the forward propeller, the second cap having a diameter, the second cap having a length and comprising a plurality of equally spaced flow plates projecting from the second cap in a radial direction with no inclination and without extending beyond the diameter of the second cap;

wherein the aft propeller and the forward propeller have opposite directions of rotation;

wherein the first cap and the second cap are arranged opposing each other and are spaced apart; thereby defining a separation zone; and

wherein the flow plates are constructed and arranged to eliminate cavitation in the separation zone when the aft propeller is not co-axial with the forward propeller, the flow plates on the whole length of the second cap and link up to each other and extend beyond an aft facing end of the cap.

13. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 12, wherein the second cap has a diameter to length ratio of less than 2.

14. (Previously Presented) The arrangement of claim 12, wherein the position of the flow plates is independent of the position of the blades of the forward propeller.

15. (New) The arrangement of claim 1, wherein the cap of the forward propeller has a maximum outer diameter, and the flow plates do not extend beyond the maximum outer diameter.

16. (New) The arrangement of claim 12, wherein the second cap has a maximum outer diameter, and the flow plates do not extend beyond the maximum outer diameter of the second cap.